



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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Chief Executive Officer

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April 11, 2011

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "W. T. Fujioka", written over a horizontal line.

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

This memorandum contains a pursuit of a County position on legislation related to public health laboratories and an update on a County-advocacy measure regarding mandated reporting of financial abuse of elderly and dependent adults.

Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

SB 594 (Wolk), which as introduced on February 17, 2011, would: 1) require all laboratory services necessary for local public health departments to be provided by a city or county's public health laboratory; 2) allow counties to contract for laboratory services with other city or county public health laboratories or with the State Department of Public Health; 3) expand the types of services that must be performed by a city or county-operated public health laboratory; and 4) require the State Department of Public Health to develop and administer written examinations to certify public health microbiologists, and to establish minimum requirements and standards for laboratories that train public health microbiologist-trainees.

The Department of Public Health (DPH) indicates that SB 594 would prohibit the County from contracting with qualified private clinical laboratories even when contracting for such services would be more cost efficient. The measure also would prohibit local health departments from forming consortia to jointly operate regional public health laboratories. DPH notes that local public health officers must be provided with options

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Each Supervisor
April 11, 2011
Page 2

to ensure they can maintain the public's health during times of fiscal constraint. SB 594 does not provide this flexibility. According to DPH, SB 594 would impose new burdensome requirements which would limit local public health officers' flexibility and create barriers to achieving cost savings and implementing efficiency measures.

The Department of Public Health and this office oppose SB 594. Therefore, consistent with existing Board policy to oppose measures which create a new unfunded mandate or reduce or limit local authority, **the Sacramento advocates will oppose SB 594.**

SB 594 is currently awaiting a hearing in the Senate Health Committee. There is no registered support or opposition on file for this measure.

Status of County-Advocacy Legislation

County-supported SB 33 (Simitian), which as introduced on December 6, 2010, would repeal the January 1, 2013 sunset date and make permanent provisions established by SB 1018, (Chapter 140, Statutes of 2005), which expanded the scope of the Elder Abuse and Dependent Adult Civil Protection Act to include officers and employees of financial institutions as mandated reporters of financial abuse of an elder or dependent adult, passed the Senate Banking and Financial Institutions Committee by a vote of 7 to 0 on April 6, 2011. This measure is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee on April 12, 2011.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:RA
MR:VE:sb

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist
Local 721
Coalition of County Unions
California Contract Cities Association
Independent Cities Association
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